

## **Selected Council Accomplishments – 2000**

### Education

- Funded hiring of 1,400 new teachers
- Funded 11 new elementary school gyms over the next six years
- \$1.6 million in additional state monies for “English for Speakers of Other Languages” programs
- Helped win \$51.2 million in state school construction funds
- \$70 million plan for expansion of Montgomery College’s Takoma Park campus and \$24 million for renovation of the Science East and Science West buildings and the Student Center on the Rockville campus
- \$870,000 for technology instruction programs at Montgomery College and \$438,000 for Takoma Park campus technology-related projects
- Restored to the budget nearly \$12 million for math, reading, all-day kindergarten, and other education initiatives
- Funded class size reduction initiatives. Reduced class size to 17 in grades 1 & 2 in 19 “high-need” schools, part of three-year effort to reach all high-need schools. Continued class size reduction to 15 students for reading classes in early grades in every elementary school and to 20 students in ninth grade algebra classes
- Supported Early Childhood Initiative, resulting in selection of County multi-agency coordinator of Early Childhood programs

### Transportation

- Approved \$6 million for design and land acquisition for Montrose Parkway
- Cut “Ride On” bus fares for two-week and 20-trip passes by 44 percent while increasing frequency on many routes
- Won agreement by State House and Senate officials for new County transportation funding and no State action on the ICC until after 2002 elections by agreeing not to designate ICC right-of-way as interim park land
- Construction began on Norbeck Road Extended, ultimately connecting Rockville and I-95 with four lanes
- \$7 million for Travilah Road widening
- \$8.2 million for Woodfield Road Extended
- Funded replacement of three deteriorating bridges in Montgomery Village, Dickerson, and Damascus
- Funded Forest Glen pedestrian bridges over three Beltway interchange ramps
- Accelerated planning by one year for Father Hurley Boulevard extension and Goshen Road widening
- \$3.7 million in intersection improvements for Old Georgetown Road and Jones Bridge Road

- \$49.2 million for new parking garages at the Shady Grove and Grosvenor Metro stations
- \$40 million for development of the Silver Spring Transit Center
- \$100,000 for additional express bus service from Frederick City to Rock Spring Park to begin in January 2002
- Enhanced “Super Fare Share” program for Bethesda (\$175,000) and North Bethesda (\$100,000) for businesses that subsidize employees’ transit ridership. \$50,000 “Super Fare Share” program for Friendship Heights
- \$3.4 million for bike and pedestrian safety in downtown Bethesda
- \$300,000 more for tree pruning
- \$80,000 to update County’s bike route map and signage
- \$50,000 for safety-related pavement markings
- \$100,000 more for residential road resurfacing

#### Oversight

- Strengthened office of Inspector General, making it permanent, giving it subpoena power
- Approved transfer of cable TV franchise to Comcast, strengthened contract to include: fines against Prime, increased future penalties for poor customer service, written customer service guarantees, information on customer service to go to Council as well as Cable Office, assurance that system could accommodate future “open access”
- Bolstered Council’s timely oversight capabilities on technology and other complex projects with \$50,000 appropriation for expert assistance
- Approved construction of a new County Radio Shop, Council saves \$1 million by using land already-owned by the County
- Oversight on Shady Grove Adventist Hospital during quality of patient care issues
- Oversight on CPC and County mental health needs
- Tightened procurement regulations to assure more competition, Council oversight
- EMontgomery begins, based on Council plan and reduced funding – does more for less

#### Parks, Recreation and the Arts

- \$1.3 million to rehabilitate the Rock Creek trestle for hiker/biker use
- Approved new performing arts center at Strathmore
- Funded five new recreation centers (Damascus, Mid-County, North Bethesda, Kemp Mill/White Oak, and North Potomac) over the next six years
- Approved a new Germantown indoor swim center
- \$33 million over six years for Legacy Open Space program – first property, Bucklodge Forest, bought for \$3 million
- \$52 million in parks development over six years for more parks, trails, and ballfields
- Supported joint County, State, and Federal effort to renovate Glen Echo Park

### Tobacco

- Required retail vendors of tobacco products to keep them behind the counter or otherwise inaccessible
- Appealed ruling by lower court judge on smoking ban in County eating and drinking establishments

### Public Safety

- Funded 150 new public safety officers
- Approved mounted Park Police patrol in Silver Spring and 7 new officers
- Provided leadership on fighting West Nile virus – convened public hearing, distributed information, won agreement on 24-hour notice and special outreach to persons on state toxics watch list
- Approved multi-point plan to fill the gaps in County's response to domestic violence
- Initiated campaign for cell phone donations for County school bus drivers – hundreds of phones donated
- Approved funding for new Public Safety Mobile Data and Radio System
- Approved tax credits for the installation of fire sprinklers in residential units where they are not legally required

### Housing

- Boosted County's Housing Initiative Fund to \$7.27 million – from \$2.7 million previous – to help preserve affordable housing and revitalize surrounding older neighborhoods through rehabilitation loans and other assistance
- Initiated "Building Neighborhoods to Call Home," a program of assistance to tenants, a resource center for landlords, promotion of affordable housing near job centers, and strategic investments to preserve neighborhoods.
- Revised County's Landlord-Tenant Law to strengthen tenants' rights

### Libraries

- Accelerated by three years new Rockville library, accelerated by three years planning and design of new Germantown library
- Renovations for Bethesda and Long Branch libraries
- Initiated feasibility and site selection for a new Silver Spring library

### Economic Development

- Expanded opportunities for high tech incubators
- Continued support for Silver Spring redevelopment – Fresh Fields, Strosnider's, AFI, Civic Building development, and more
- County support for Marriott expansion, establishment of Qiagen facility in Germantown
- Increased support for County's Economic Development Fund

### Social Programs

- Opened new 100-bed homeless shelter for men as part of public/private partnership
- Increased “Working Poor” programs by \$330,000, 25 percent increase in County earned income tax credit
- \$526,000 mental health “safety net” for County children
- \$669,000 to address mental health needs involving the criminal justice and corrections systems
- Expansion of Montgomery Babies Initiative to all County birthing hospitals
- Cut waiting list in half for home health care and adult foster care
- Funded health initiatives in African American, Latino, and Korean communities
- Support for Teen Tobacco Initiative
- More resources for meal, vision, and health care programs for homeless and low-income
- More resources for developmentally disabled, seniors
- Developed comprehensive approach to provision of primary and preventive health care

### Environment

- Approved legislation to require notice to buyers of properties in Special Protection Areas
- Approved legislation to regulate the storage and handling of pesticides in certain retail establishments

### Fiscal Matters

- Prohibited charging fees for semi-annual payment of property taxes
- Defeated bid in state legislature for a special interest exemption from WSSC’s System Development Charge
- Approved freeze on WSSC water and sewer rates – third year in row, while continuing to support debt retirement and productivity increases (21 percent cut in workforce over next 5 years)
- Initiated and approved two health insurance premium holidays for County workers, saving taxpayers \$3.2 million, retired employees one month’s premium, and active employees up to \$126 each

### Land Use

- Approved Master Plans for Northwest Silver Spring, East Silver Spring, and Takoma Park
- Approved changes to facilitate Discovery Communications development in Silver Spring

### Other

- Approved legislation banning genetic discrimination in employment
- “Town Hall” meetings in Wheaton, Gaithersburg, Takoma Park, Potomac